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ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

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***By A. G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.***

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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FARNWORTH:

ALDRED & SONS, LTD., PRINTERS, CAXTON BUILDINGS.

1938.



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to Submit my Report on the health of the Urban District of Farnworth for the year 1937.

The Registrar General has estimated the population of the district for mid-year 1937, at 27,920, a decrease of 190 on the previous year, and a decrease of 797 on the census figures of 1931.

The Birth and Death Rates continue to approximate to each other. This year the deaths exceed the births. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 85 per thousand registered births is the highest since 1933.

There were 25 notified cases of diphtheria, the lowest number since 1933. The response of the public to the facilities for immunisation has been meagre.

The overcrowding survey has been revised, with the result that the number of overcrowded families has been reduced from 217 to 122.

A Public Inquiry was held during the year into Clearance Areas, involving 58 houses and a population of 196. The Orders made by the Council were confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

This Report follows the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health, and should be read in conjunction with the Report of the School Medical Officer.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. G. GLASS.

### Members of the Health Committee.

#### *Chairman :*

Councillor DR. F. L. SESSIONS.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor W. McMANUS.

#### *Members :*

Councillor D. BRABBIN.

„ A. JONES.

„ P. HELME

„ A. HINDLEY.

„ J. STEVENSON.

„ S. TAYLOR, J.P., C.C.

„ A. H. R. WILLIS.



### Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

#### *Chairman :*

Councillor S. TAYLOR, J.P., C.C.

#### *Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor CUNLIFFE, J.P. (*Died Dec., 1937*)

#### *Members :*

Councillor BRABBIN.

„ BRISTOW.

„ HEATHCOTE.

„ HELME.

„ JONES.

„ McMANUS.

„ ROWLANDS, C.C.

„ SEDDON.

„ SESSIONS.

„ WILCOCKSON.

#### *Co-opted Members :*

Mrs. COOKE, J.P.

Mrs. COOPER.

Mrs. JONES.

Mrs. STEVENSON.

Mrs. SCOTT.

Mrs. WILCOCKSON.



## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

**Area**=1504 statute acres.

<b>Population</b> =Census, 1931 ... ..	28,717
Estimated, 1937 (middle) ... ..	27,920
Number of inhabited houses (1931) ... ..	7104
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books ... ..	8100
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931) ...	7188
Rateable value (1st April, 1937) ... ..	£131,067
Sum represented by a penny rate (1st April, 1937) ...	£468

### Social Conditions.

The population is mainly of the working class, the chief employment being in the cotton and coal mining industries.

Approximately 16·0 per cent. of the insured workpeople of 18 years of age and over are unemployed. This is practically the same figure as last year.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

#### BIRTHS :

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ... ..	344	178	166
Illegitimate ... ..	8	5	3
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>352</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>169</b>
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	12·6		
Still Births ... ..	21	14	7
Rate per 1000 Total Births ...	56		

#### DEATHS ... ..

Crude Death-rate per 1,000 population	13·1
Adjusted „ „ „ „	14·1
No. of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :	
From sepsis ... ..	nil
From other causes ... ..	nil

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ... ..	30	14	16
Illegitimate ... ..	—		
<b>Infantile Mortality Rate</b> ...	<b>85</b>		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	...	2

TABLE I.

RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Tubercu- losis Death- Rate (Respira- tory)	Infantile Mortality Rate
Mean of 5 years :				
1895-1899 ...	32.0	20.4	1.13	242
1900-1904 ...	28.3	18.4	0.99	220
1905-1909 ...	27.0	16.7	1.13	186
1910-1914 ...	23.3	14.1	0.75	160
1915-1919 ...	18.6	16.7	1.16	126
1920-1924 ...	20.4	12.4	0.87	91
1925-1929 ...	15.2	12.2	0.70	85
1930-1934 ...	13.0	12.2	0.51	82
1932-1936 ...	12.9	12.3	0.42	77
Year :				
1936 ...	12.8	12.7	0.56	63
1937 ...	12.6	13.1	0.46	85
Increase or decrease in 1937 on				
Mean of 5 years, 1932-1936 ...	-0.3	+0.8	+0.04	+ 8
Previous year ...	-0.2	+0.4	-0.10	+22

TABLE II.

Showing Birth Rates, Death Rates, and Infantile Mortality Rates for Farnworth since 1912, compared with England and Wales.

	Birth Rates.		Death Rates.		Infantile Mortality Rates.	
Year.	England & Wales	Farnworth	England & Wales	Farnworth	England & Wales	Farnworth
1912	23.9	22.7	13.0	12.5	95	109
1913	24.1	22.4	13.5	15.0	108	215
1914	23.8	23.1	13.7	14.3	105	122
1915	21.9	19.8	14.8	18.3	110	172
1916	20.9	18.5	13.4	15.1	91	104
1917	17.8	18.4	13.5	16.1	96	112
1918	17.7	18.1	17.1	17.1	97	113
1919	18.5	17.0	13.3	16.9	89	127
1920	25.4	24.2	12.1	12.9	80	125
1921	22.4	23.8	11.5	12.5	83	90
1922	20.6	18.6	12.9	13.0	77	68
1923	19.7	17.8	11.6	12.0	69	69
1924	18.8	17.6	12.2	11.7	75	103
1925	18.3	17.2	12.2	12.4	75	80
1926	17.8	15.0	11.6	11.2	70	96
1927	16.7	16.4	12.3	12.5	69	78
1928	16.7	14.3	11.7	11.4	65	75
1929	16.3	13.5	13.4	14.6	74	97
1930	16.3	14.0	11.4	11.4	60	70
1931	15.8	12.3	12.3	12.6	66	84
1932	15.3	14.2	12.0	11.3	65	89
1933	14.4	11.5	12.3	14.2	64	97
1934	14.8	13.2	11.8	11.5	59	72
1935	14.7	12.9	11.7	12.2	57	68
1936	14.8	12.8	12.1	12.7	59	63
1937	14.9	12.6	12.4	13.1	58	85

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1937.

Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	2
Appendicitis ... ..	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	2
Influenza ... ..	9
Syphilis ... ..	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	13
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	5
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	41
Diabetes ... ..	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	24
Heart disease ... ..	84
Other Circulatory diseases ... ..	15
Bronchitis ... ..	22
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	23
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	1
Peptic ulcer ... ..	2
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	4
Other diseases of liver ... ..	2
Other digestive diseases ... ..	5
Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	12
General paralysis of the insane (tabes, &c.) ... ..	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ... ..	15
Senility ... ..	27
Suicide ... ..	5
Other deaths from violence ... ..	12
Other defined diseases ... ..	32
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	2
<hr/>	
TOTAL ...	367

The diseases which produced the largest number of deaths—65 per cent. of the total—are given in the following table. For purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for the five previous years are given :—

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NUMBER OF DEATHS.					
	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Pneumonia ... ..	12	29	15	21	16	23
Heart disease ... ..	57	78	60	60	82	84
Other circulatory diseases	41	24	24	20	24	15
Cancer ... ..	37	53	36	41	39	41
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	12	16	21	9	20	18
Bronchitis ... ..	23	35	9	11	15	22
Cerebral hemorrhage ...	10	13	18	23	27	24
Congenital debility ; premature birth ...	20	17	19	21	19	15

TABLE IV.

Showing Infantile Mortality Rates of Towns of over 25,000 population in the administrative County of Lancaster, for the year 1937.

NAME OF TOWN.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Accrington ... ..	57
Ashton-under-Lyne ... ..	62
Chadderton ... ..	68
Chorley ... ..	60
Crosby ... ..	56
Darwen ... ..	54
Eccles ... ..	65
<b>FARNWORTH</b> ... ..	<b>85</b>
Heywood ... ..	97
Lancaster ... ..	66
Leigh ... ..	70
Lytham-St. Annes ... ..	56
Middleton ... ..	51
Nelson ... ..	30
Radcliffe ... ..	67
Rawtenstall ... ..	71
Stretford ... ..	59
Swinton and Pendlebury ... ..	61
Widnes ... ..	93



**Births.**

348 live births were registered in Farnworth during the year, these being divided amongst the various Wards as follows:—

N.	S.	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.
44	54	78	72	49	51

After adjustment for transferable births, the number to be assigned to Farnworth was 352, giving a birth-rate for the year of 12.6 per 1000 of the population. This was a decrease of 0.2 per 1000 on the previous year, and is a decrease of 0.3 per 1000 over the period 1932-1936.

**Deaths.**

The number of deaths registered in Farnworth during 1937 was 330.

The Ward distribution was as follows:—

N.	S.	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.
63	49	46	59	50	63

After allowance for transfers, the number of deaths assignable to the district was 367, giving a crude death-rate of 13.1 per 1000 of the population. This is an increase of 0.4 per 1000 on the previous year.

As the age and sex group components vary greatly in different towns, a just comparison cannot be made on "crude" death rates alone. The Registrar General has therefore introduced what he calls a "comparability factor" for each district. That for Farnworth is 1.08. For comparative purposes, therefore, the crude death rate has to be multiplied by 1.08, which gives for Farnworth an "adjusted" death rate of 14.1 per 1,000.

**Infant Deaths.**

30 deaths of children under 12 months of age were registered, distributed as follows:—

N.	S.	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.
5	3	7	6	4	5

The infant mortality rate for the year was 85 per 1000 registered births.

**Meteorological Notes for 1937.\***

Total sunshine	...	...	...	...	1028.0 hours
Temperature: Highest	...	...	80.2°	August 1st	
Lowest	...	...	21.6°	Dec. 18th	
Mean	...	...	...	...	48.21°
Rainfall:					
Maximum in one day	...	...	...	1.260 ins.	Jan. 5th
Total, 1937	...	...	...	...	35.894 ins.
Average, 1887-1937	...	...	...	...	42.225 ins.

\*From information kindly supplied by Mr. E. Hendy, Bolton.

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

#### (a) MEDICAL :

Medical Officer of Health : ALEXANDER G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.  
(Also M.O.H. Kearsley U.D.C.)

Antenatal Clinic : J. W. A. HUNTER, M.B., Ch.B. (one afternoon fortnightly).

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia : DR. JAMES SCOTT (as required).

Dental Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Committee : G. C. ROYLEY, L.D.S.

#### (b) OTHERS :

Veterinary Inspector : JAMES HOLT, M.R.C.V.S. (Quarterly inspection of all cattle in the district).

Chief Sanitary Inspector : H. T. OGDEN, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors: S. SEEL, A.R.S.I. (also Market Superintendent).

C. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 7th May).

A. H. S. LEWIS, M.S.I.A.  
(Appointed 9th August).

Health Visitors : Miss A. PENDLEBURY, A.R.S.I.,  
Certs. M. & C.W. and C.M.B.  
Miss A. B. ECROYD, A.R.S.I.,  
Certs. S.N. & H.V. and C.M.B.

Clerks : T. SHAW.  
Miss J. HARRISON

### Professional Nursing in the Home.

#### (a) GENERAL.

This is carried out entirely by the District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary body, depending for its income on free-will contributions. It has no official connection with the Local Authority, but receives from them an annual subscription of twenty guineas. It is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

#### (b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made with the District Nursing Association for the services of a trained nurse in cases of puerperal pyrexia, puerperal fever and the notifiable cases of pneumonia. The cost to the Council is from 1/- to 1/6 per visit.

For other infectious diseases there is no domiciliary nursing service. The Health Visitors visit cases of measles, whooping cough, etc., and advise parents in regard to management and treatment.



## Midwives.

The Lancashire County Council is the supervising Authority. With the passing of the Midwives Act, 1936, and the New County Council Scheme, the whole service has been re-organised. Farnworth now forms part of a district which includes Radcliffe, Little Lever, Kearsley, Whitefield and Prestwich. This district has an area of 14,806 acres, and in 1935 the number of domiciliary births was 757. Eight midwives have been allotted to the combined district, of whom three are resident in Farnworth. The closest co-operation has been, and will be maintained between the Local Authority and the County Council.

## Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of clinical material (blood, swabs, etc.) is done at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. Milk samples are also examined there.

The examination of sputum is carried out by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee, free of charge to the Local Authority.

## Public Health Legislation in Force in the Area.

	NAME.	Operative from
LOCAL ACTS :	The Farnworth Urban District Council Act ... ..	1900
LOCAL ORDER :	Provisional Order for Amending the Farnworth U.D.C. Act of 1900...	—
ADOPTIVE ACTS :	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts I. to V. inclusive....	1891
	Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890... ..	1896
	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts V., VI., Sections of Parts II., III., IV., VII., VIII. and X. ... ..	1909
	Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II., III., IV. and V., except Sec. 20 March, 1926	
LOCAL BYELAWS :	Houses Let in Lodgings ... ..	1929
	Common Lodging Houses ... ..	1929
	New Streets and Buildings ... ..	1930
	Public Baths ... ..	1900
	Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	1900
	Nuisances ... ..	1900
	Slaughterhouses ... ..	1929
	Tripe Boilers ... ..	1900
	Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	1900
	Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	1929

The Acts and Byelaws are all enforced.

## Hospitals.

Townleys Hospital, with over 500 beds, is within the district, and is under the administrative control of the Bolton Corporation. There is a frequent bus service to the hospital.

Bolton Infirmary, with 226 beds, is easily accessible by tram.

There are also large hospitals in the Salford and Manchester area, to which many Farnworth patients go.

All these Institutions have medical and surgical wards, and are equipped with every modern facility for diagnosis and treatment.

In addition to these general hospitals there is the Manchester Children's Hospital at Pendlebury (190 beds), to which many Farnworth children are sent. With the exception of Townleys Hospital all are voluntary Institutions.

Specialised classes of defect are provided for, e.g.,

Tuberculosis—at the various County Hospitals and Institutions.

Venereal disease—at Bolton Infirmary.

Chronic sick—at Townleys Hospital.

Maternity—at Townleys Hospital.

Puerperal fever and pyrexia—at Townleys Hospital.

Ophthalmia neonatorum—at Townleys Hospital.

Ear, Nose and Throat—at Bolton Infirmary.

Orthopaedics—at Biddulph and Windermere (owned by County Council).

## Infectious Disease.

The Council has made the following arrangements for the removal of cases suffering from infectious disease :—

### (1) SMALLPOX.

Ainsworth Hospital, under the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board. A retaining fee of £110 per annum is paid. If patients are sent, the cost of their maintenance is also borne by the Council, plus proportion of administrative costs. There has been no case of Smallpox in the district since 1930.

### (2) OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The agreement with Salford Corporation for the admission of cases of infectious disease (other than smallpox) continues.

**Part taken by the Local Authority in regard to Hospitals:—****(1) FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.****(a) Bolton Infirmary.**

Tonsils and adenoids, 25/- per case, plus 7/6 for each night detained in hospital.

**(b) Townleys Hospital.**

Maternity cases—3 guineas per week.

Puerperal fever and pyrexia—3 guineas per week.

**(c) Orthopaedic Hospitals.**

Farnworth has joined in the County Scheme for treatment up to age of 14.

**(2) ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Bolton Infirmary	...	...	...	...	£42	0	0
St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Manchester Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
Salford Royal Hospital	...	...	...	...	21	0	0
Manchester Children's Hospital	...	...	...	...	7	0	0
Manchester Royal Eye Hospital	...	...	...	...	3	3	0
Manchester & Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	5	0
Royal Albert Institution for the Feeble-minded, Lancaster.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Christie Cancer Hospital & Holt Radium Institute	...	...	...	...	25	0	0

**Ambulance Facilities.**

(a) For infectious cases—Hospital motor ambulance.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases—Two motor ambulances kept at the Fire Station.

**Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.**

No institution exists in the area for the reception of unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants. If they are destitute they are received into Townleys. With regard to homeless children, these are provided for by the Public Assistance Committee, who own 10 Cottage Homes, with certified accommodation for 131 children. Each home is under the charge of a foster-mother, who is responsible for its good conduct. The children are kept until they are 14. On reaching the age of 14 they are interviewed by the Juvenile Employment Officer, who takes steps to secure suitable employment for them. In most cases they are sent to other districts, and are looked after by an After-care Committee in the district to which they are transferred.

The children are frequently examined at the school medical inspections, and the School Medical Officer's reports on their nutrition and general cleanliness have been uniformly satisfactory. Any medical defects found receive prompt attention.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic.	Situation.	Nature of Accommodation	Provided by.
M.&C. W. Clinic School Clinic. (Combined)	Wesley School, Market Street, Farnworth  (New Clinic in Albert Road will be ready for use at the beginning of next year).	Waiting room, demonstration room, Medical Officer's consult- ing room, sur- gery, bath room with slipper and spray baths, lavatory accom- modation and pram shelter.	Farnworth Urban District Council.
Venereal Diseases.	Offices of Public Health Dept., Howell Croft N. Bolton.	Waiting and ante-rooms. Consulting, treatment, and irrigation rooms Lavatory and W.C. accom- modation.	Bolton Corporation.
Tuberculosis	19-23 Darley Street, Farnworth.	2 waiting rooms, 2 dressing rooms (male & female).	Lancashire County Council.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supply.

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds, is soft in nature, and is of pure quality.

Frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations are made by the Corporation, and close co-operation is maintained between their Health and Waterworks Departments.

All the houses in the district are supplied with water.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

Drainage is almost entirely on the combined system. The main sewage disposal plant is situated at the bottom of Hall Lane, just outside the Farnworth district. The sewage, after being screened, is precipitated with lime, afterwards passing through settling beds, from which it is conveyed by mechanical circular sprinklers on to the bacteriological purification beds. The effluent, after parting with its "humus" in specially constructed tanks, finally discharges into the River Croal.



**Closet Accommodation.**

ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1937 :—

Number of	privy middens	...	...	...	12
„	closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	14
„	pail closets	...	...	...	14
„	fresh water closets	...	...	...	8702
„	waste water closets	...	...	...	494
„	dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	Nil
„	movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	...	8311
„	houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	8100

**Conversions.**

		During 1937	During 5 years 1932-1936.
Number of privy closets	To fresh water closets	nil	13
	To waste water closets	nil	nil
	To pails, etc. ...	nil	1
Number of pail closets	To fresh water closets	nil	nil
	To waste water closets	nil	nil
No of waste water closets to fresh water closets ... ..		6	44
Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles ... ..		nil	3

**Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.**

At the end of 1937 there were in the district :—

Privy Closets	...	...	14
Pail Closets	...	...	14
Galvanized Iron Bins	...	...	8311

All the above receptacles, except the privy middens, are emptied weekly by the Council's Staff, which consists of a foreman and thirteen others. The Transport department provides one two-ton motor wagon and three carts. All the vehicles are provided with covers.

Certain kinds of trade refuse, e.g. paper, vegetable matter, etc., is collected weekly from shops, stalls, etc., and is disposed of at the tips, combustible material being burnt as far as possible. Fish offal is collected and removed by private firms. Offal from slaughter-houses is removed weekly, and conveyed to Bolton for incineration.

In the past, the Council have made trial of various forms of incinerator, but, for one reason or another, these were considered to be unsatisfactory. Of late years, disposal has been by

**Controlled Tipping.**

There are two tips, one at the east end, and the other at the west end of the district. Both are situated at a considerable distance from dwelling houses, and will provide tipping facilities for many years. The refuse is tipped in approximately six foot layers, and covered with suitable material. Much land, which would otherwise have remained waste, has been levelled up, and has provided sites for bowling greens, tennis courts, etc.

**Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary  
Department during the Year.**

	WARDS.		
	South	North	South-East
Notices :			
Preliminary notices served ... ..	140	250	42
Statutory notices served ... ..	55	14	6
Visits :			
Abatement of nuisances ... ..	220	285	150
Housing inspections and re-visits ...	964	1148	511
Infectious diseases ... ..	16	9	14
Cowsheds, Dairies or Milkshops ... ..	14	15	16
Ice Cream premises ... ..	3	3	2
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ...	26	2	10
Slaughterhouses ... ..	40	243	40
Food preparing premises ... ..	42	34	21
Butchers' shops and stalls ... ..	16	14	36
Meat vehicles... ..	4	3	5
Bake-houses ... ..	21	43	26
Offensive trades ... ..	8	—	5
Shops under Shops Acts ... ..	9	8	7
Complaints re rats ... ..	39	37	24
Houses :			
Roofs repaired or reslated ... ..	32	57	16
External Walls repointed or rebuilt ...	86	134	14
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt ...	31	68	20
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed... ..	19	33	4
Rainwater down-pipes repaired or renewed	6	9	4
"    " disconnected from drains	7	4	4
"    " discharged into new cross-gutters	6	37	4
Walls provided with a damp-proof course	345	140	60
Ground floors relaid... ..	143	274	29
Staircases repaired or hand-rails provided	39	118	12
Fire ranges or ovens repaired or renewed	11	87	9
Windows repaired, renewed, or made to open	39	318	9
Wash-boilers renewed or brickwork repaired	9	21	4
New Sinks provided ... ..	12	48	5
Walls and ceilings replastered or repaired	261	405	66
Walls and ceilings decorated ... ..	255	243	64
Bedroom floorboards repaired or renewed	17	74	5
Doors repaired or renewed ... ..	18	43	2
Drains opened, cleansed and relieved ...	4	9	4
W.C.'s provided with water ... ..	11	9	9
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed ... ..	5	29	7
W.W.C.'s converted to F.W.C.'s ... ..	—	1	—
Drains repaired or relaid ... ..	3	1	2
Dust bins renewed ... ..	27	51	14
Yards paved ... ..	22	76	3
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	7	1	2
Water service pipes repaired ... ..	—	2	—
New Sink waste pipes provided ... ..	3	4	3
Yard Gates repaired or renewed ... ..	6	10	3

	WARDS.		
	North-East	North-West	South-West
Notices :—Preliminary notices served ...	117	14	108
Statutory notices served ... ..	9	1	27
Visits :			
Abatement of nuisances ... ..	129	70	187
Housing inspections and re-visits ...	542	16	306
Infectious diseases ... ..	9	35	14
Cowsheds, Dairies or Milkshops ...	9	45	68
Ice Cream premises ... ..	—	2	3
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ...	4	—	6
Slaughterhouses ... ..	—	180	80
Food preparing premises ... ..	11	6	23
Butchers' Shops and Stalls ... ..	7	11	18
Meat Vehicles ... ..	2	1	3
Bake-houses ... ..	17	12	16
Offensive trades ... ..	—	—	—
Houses Let in Lodgings ... ..	16	—	—
Shops under Shops Acts ... ..	5	2	6
Complaints, <i>re</i> rats ... ..	15	34	48
Houses :			
Roofs repaired or reslated ... ..	6	4	7
External Walls repointed or rebuilt ...	11	3	42
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt ...	6	—	20
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed... ..	2	1	2
Rainwater down-pipes repaired or renewed	3	3	8
„ „ disconnected from drains	—	—	3
„ „ discharged into new cross-gutters	—	—	3
Walls provided with a damp-proof course	26	1	113
Ground floors relaid ... ..	16	8	51
Staircases repaired or handrails provided	14	1	19
Fire ranges or ovens repaired or renewed...	6	—	7
Windows repaired, renewed, or made to open	33	8	7
Wash-boilers renewed or brickwork repaired	4	—	2
New sinks provided ... ..	6	—	4
Walls and ceilings replastered or repaired	33	8	86
Walls and ceilings decorated ... ..	33	7	84
Bedroom floor boards repaired or renewed	1	—	2
Doors repaired or renewed... ..	8	2	1
Drains opened, cleansed and relieved ...	7	—	5
W.C.'s provided with water ... ..	3	1	6
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	7	—	8
W.W.C.'s converted to F.W.C.'s ... ..	—	—	5
Drains repaired or relaid ... ..	—	—	7
Dust bins renewed ... ..	9	7	16
Yards paved ... ..	11	3	4
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	1	—	1
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance ...	—	1	—
New Sink waste pipes provided ... ..	1	2	2
Yard Gates repaired or renewed ... ..	2	—	2

**Smoke Abatement.****SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.**

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Number of observations	70	68	56	67	86	86	89	53	31
Legal proceedings ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The time concession for the emission of black smoke in Farnworth is 2 minutes in the half-hour.

**Public Baths.**

The Council owns an up-to-date swimming bath. It measures 75 feet in length and 30 feet in width. It has 61 dressing cubicles, stores, 4 foot-baths and 5 slipper-baths.

The filtration plant has been recently installed and consists of a filter tank, pump, motor, super-heater, air compressor and aeration chamber, syphon, glass feed and chemical tanks. The water is kept at a suitable temperature, and is chlorinated. Samples of the water are taken at frequent intervals.

**Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.**

- (1) **HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS :**  
There is one in the district .
- (2) **COMMON LODGING HOUSES :**  
There are none in the district.
- (3) **OFFENSIVE TRADES :**

There is only one offensive trade, as defined in Section 107 of the Public Health Act of 1936, that of a tripe boiler. His premises are inspected periodically.

In addition, there are two rag dealers and one bone dealer, and for the purpose of bringing these businesses under the designation of "offensive trades," an Order will have to be made by the Council declaring the trades or businesses of Rag Dealer or Bone Dealer to be offensive trades within the district. Notice will have to be given in the *London Gazette* and in the local newspaper when such application has been made to the Minister of Health for confirmation.

- (4) **UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS :**  
There are none in the district.

**Shops.**

The Sanitary Inspectors are appointed to administer all the provisions of the Shops Acts. 37 visits were made during the year.



**Schools.**

The sanitary condition of the public elementary schools, and the measures taken for safeguarding the health of the scholars are fully described in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

**Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

145 visits were paid during 1937. 27 defects were found, all of which had been remedied by the end of the year.

**HOUSING.****Housing Statistics for the year 1937.**

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)...	153
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	30
(ii) By other Local Authorities ... ..	nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons ... ..	123
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	30
(ii) By other bodies or persons ... ..	nil

**I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES :**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	647
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2463
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	262
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	285
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	22
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	528

**II. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices :**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	158
--	-----

**III. Action under Statutory Powers :****A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	44
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	42
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	66
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	62
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

## C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	14

## D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	nil

## IV. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	122
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	143
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	934
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... ..	11
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	95
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	684

**Housing Conditions.**

## (1) GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Excluding those built by the Council, 85 per cent. of the houses in Farnworth are of the four-roomed type, with separate yards and fresh-water closets. They do not possess larders nor baths, although these can no longer be considered luxuries but necessities, if a decent standard of hygiene is to be maintained.

In the matter of age, 65 per cent. will be in the neighbourhood of 50 years, 10 per cent. are older, the remainder being of more recent erection.

Approximately 98 per cent. of the houses are of fair standard, that is to say, they conform more or less to the Building Byelaws, although many have fallen into a state of disrepair. A common defect in these houses is dampness, due principally to two causes : (1) the practice of building solid instead of cavity walls, and (2) the absence or ineffectiveness of the damp course.

**(2) OVERCROWDING.**

The overcrowding survey was revised, and it was found that the number of families overcrowded had been reduced to 122. The Council are now erecting houses to accommodate overcrowded cases.

**(3) FITNESS OF HOUSES.**

With the exception of a few houses which are scheduled to be dealt with under schemes of demolition or reconstruction, the defects in the others are being systematically dealt with under the various Public Health or Housing Acts.

No great difficulty has been experienced in enforcing our powers.

All the houses in the district have a pure water supply, and all have fresh water closets, except in a few cases where no sewer is available.

**(4) CLEARANCE AREAS.**

No official representations were made regarding Clearance Areas in 1937, but an Inquiry was held in respect of 58 houses involving a population of 196. These Orders were subsequently confirmed.

**Individual Unfit Houses.**

Two representations involving 6 houses were made during the year.

**Eradication of bed bugs.**

Particulars of action taken during the year :—

No. of houses disinfested—

(a) by Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

(1) Council houses ... 10

(2) Other houses ... 2

(b) Insecticides

(1) Council houses ... Nil

(2) Other houses ... 6

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.****(a) Milk Supply.**

There are 12 dairy farms in the district with approximately 250 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects, and in addition, the cows are inspected four times a year by a qualified veterinary inspector. His reports during the year have been favourable.

The farms are now provided with dairies which in all cases have no communication with other buildings.

The provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order requiring cattle to be kept clean, and requiring the washing of udders and flanks previous to each milking, were complied with, except in one or two instances where, after a warning letter, the provisions of the Order were carried out.

1937.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Kind of Milk.	Bacterial count per c.c.	Bacillus coli present (3 tubes—O.l.c.c.) (3 tubes—O.Olc.c.)	Tubercle bacilli.
Mixed ....	6,100	O.l.c.c. in none O.Olc.c. in none	negative
Mixed ...	11,000	Absent in 1.O.c.c.	negative
Mixed ...	18,167	O.l.c.c. in none O.Olc.c. in none	negative
Mixed ....	1,645	Absent in 1 Oc.c.	negative
Mixed ...	3,850	Absent in 1.Oc.c.	negative
Mixed ....	131,500	O.l.c.c. in 3 tubes O.Olc.c. in 3 tubes	negative
Mixed ...	9,850	O.l.c.c. in 3 tubes O.Olc.c. in none	negative
Mixed ....	5,300	Absent in 1.Oc.c.	negative
Mixed ....	86,500	O.l.c.c. in 3 tubes O.Olc.c. in 3 tubes	negative
Mixed ....	22,000	Absent in 1.Oc.c.	negative
Mixed ....	7,400	Absent in 1,Oc,c,	negative
Pasteurised ....	127,000	O.l.c.c. in 1 tube O.Olc.c. in none	negative
Pasteurised ....	11,800	Absent in lc,c,	negative
Pasteurised ....	4,050	Absent in lc,c,	negative
Pasteurised ....	1,610	Absent in lc,c,	negative
Tuberculin Tested	Satisfied the	methylene blue test,	negative



**(b) Meat.**

The following is the report of the Meat Inspector :—

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES.**

There are eight slaughterhouses in the district. The structures are in fair condition, but the majority of the slaughterhouses are near to dwelling-houses, and nuisances—which in the main are unavoidable during the process of slaughter of animals—are caused to occupants of nearby houses.

The requirements of the Byelaws as to the whitewashing of internal structures at regular intervals; the cleansing of walls and floors immediately after slaughter is completed; the keeping of all offensive matter—until removed—in galvanised receptacles with close fitting covers, and the thorough cleansing of such receptacles immediately after use, have been fully complied with.

The Byelaws which requires animals to be slaughtered by humane methods—by the use of a mechanically operated instrument, have now been in force for seven years, and no cases of cruelty have been observed.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.**

The above Regulations require that persons handling meat or bacon must take adequate precautions to prevent contamination. In a few instances it has been found necessary to warn persons who have not worn a clean and washable overall and cap when unloading meat and bacon, also in instances where meat—during transit—has not been adequately protected with a clean cloth or other similar covering, to prevent contamination by dust, mud, filth, etc. It is pleasing to note that there is a general desire amongst “the trade” to comply with the Regulations.

**MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.**

A systematic inspection of animals slaughtered for human consumption has been made during the year, all butchers having to notify their intention of slaughtering animals in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The carcasses, organs and offal are inspected at the time of slaughter in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular letter to Local Authorities and their Officers (Memo. 62 Foods).

The following is a tabulated statement of the visits made to slaughterhouses, and the carcasses examined each month :—

Months.	Visits.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
January ... ..	41	39	75	—	32
February ... ..	50	48	114	—	20
March ... ..	51	55	150	2	30
April ... ..	52	45	113	—	13
May ... ..	46	24	87	—	—
June ... ..	44	38	90	—	5
July ... ..	40	28	90	—	4
August ... ..	57	35	148	—	8
September ... ..	46	44	123	—	24
October ... ..	46	39	99	1	21
November ... ..	58	48	95	—	16
December... ..	52	36	86	—	49
	<hr/> 583	<hr/> 479	<hr/> 1270	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 222

#### INSPECTION OF MEAT :—

##### Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding cows).	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	295	184	3	1270	222
All diseases except Tuberculosis—Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	7	4	—	2	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ... ..	2.3	2.1	—	0.15	0.45
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	1	5	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	10	71	—	—	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	3.7	41.3	—	—	3.1

H. T. OGDEN.

(c) **Adulteration of Food.**

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the police. Supt. Turner has kindly supplied me with the following figures which relate to Farnworth for the year 1937 :—

	No. of samples taken.					
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	18
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	1
White pepper	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lancashire Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ground Ginger	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	...	1

Of the milk samples, one was found deficient in fat.

All the other samples were genuine.

## Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the last five years, and the number of deaths :

TABLE V.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	No. of Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	19	36	28	50	25	10
Erysipelas ... ..	29	45	31	20	23	—
Scarlet Fever ...	148	146	132	85	73	1
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ...	3	3	6	12	9	3
Puerperal pyrexia	45	78	2	2	3	—
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum ...	13	8	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia—Acute						
Lobar & Influenzal	189	107	122	87	99	104*
Tuberculosis :						
Pulmonary ...	22	20	19	14	19	63
Other forms ...	11	7	5	8	6	21
Encephalitis						
Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	1	6
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	—	2	2	1	2
Acute poliomyelitis	—	6	—	—	—	—

\* This figure includes deaths from all forms of pneumonia, notifiable and non-notifiable.

### Diphtheria.

25 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, against an average of 27 for the previous 5 years. There were no deaths. This disease continues to maintain its virulent character. Owing to the prompt use of antitoxin, however, the case mortality has been greatly reduced in recent years.

### Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for patients residing within the district. A supply is always available for medical practitioners, and is supplied in phials of 8,000 units and of 1000 units, the former for curative and the latter for prophylactic purposes.

During 1937 antitoxin to the amount of 243,000 units was issued to medical men.



### Active Immunisation against Diphtheria.

An immunisation clinic was held weekly during the year, and much propaganda work was undertaken. Leaflets were distributed to all the schools, and talks were given to groups at the clinic by the Medical Officer and the Nurses. Articles were published in the local press, and all the Nurses used their influence with parents both at the clinic and in the homes.

The results, as far as numbers are concerned, were disappointing.

The following table shows the numbers of children who were fully protected during the year :—

1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	6-7 yrs.	7-8 yrs.	8-9 yrs.	9-10 yrs.	10-11 yrs.	11-12 yrs.	12-13 yrs.	13-14 yrs.	Over 14	TOTAL
30	13	7	14	6	6	8	8	9	3	7	4	—	1	116

Diphtheria does its most deadly work in children under 5 years of age, and yet mothers have not availed themselves of the protection afforded by immunisation. Only 17% of that group have been protected.

Taking the children as a whole, up to school leaving age, only 14% have been protected.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that parents who leave their young children unprotected to the ravages of this deadly disease incur a grave responsibility.

It is gratifying to be able to record that no protected child contracted diphtheria during the year.

### Scarlet Fever.

During the year 73 cases were notified, against an average of 111 per year for the previous five years. This disease has become of so mild a character in recent years that many cases go quite unrecognised. There were no deaths.

### Pneumonia.

The various forms of pneumonia continue to take a heavy toll of life. Of the notifiable varieties 99 cases were reported, while the average number during the previous five years has been 115 per year. Of the 99 cases only 42 belonged to the district.

The remainder belonged to outside districts, principally Bolton, and were notified from Townleys Hospital. Ten of the cases were of the influenza type. There were 16 deaths from all forms of pneumonia including the non-notifiable varieties.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Three cases were notified during the year, only one of which belonged to Farnworth.

### **Puerperal Fever.**

Of the 9 cases notified in 1937, 2 belonged to Farnworth.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

No cases were notified during the year.

#### **SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING 1937.**

NATURE OF SPECIMEN.	NUMBER.
Throat swabs (for diphtheria) .... ...	73 (21 positive)
Milk Samples, see page 26.	

### **Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.**

Information regarding cases reaches us chiefly from two sources (1) The Health Visitors who discover them on their rounds, and (2) The Education Department, to whom they are notified by teachers, and the School Attendance Officer. All such cases are visited by the Health Visitors, and instructions given to parents regarding treatment, isolation, etc.

### **Blind Persons Act.**

The County Council are the authority for the welfare of the Blind. In the district of Farnworth, all children up to the age of 14, who suffer from any form of eye trouble, are kept under constant supervision. If they are blind within the meaning of Section 69 of the Education Act, they are sent to a special school for the Blind in Bolton. All children who require it, are examined by the ophthalmic surgeon, and hospital treatment at Bolton is available for any who require it. Minor eye troubles are treated regularly at the Farnworth Clinic.

### **Disinfection.**

Disinfection of such articles as bedding and clothing is carried out by steam disinfection at the old Isolation Hospital. In the case of patients sent to hospital, the bedding and clothing are disinfected by the Salford Corporation.

### **Disinfestation by Hydrogen Cyanide Gas.**

This is carried out by a Liverpool firm in the case of all removals from condemned property to Council houses, and also in the case of Council houses which have become re-infested.

For cases where less drastic treatment is required, insecticide is used.

TABLE VI.—Giving particulars regarding the Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1937.

DISEASE.	Total cases at all Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.											Cases admitted to Hospital from the district
		Under 1 yr.	YEARS.								65 and over		
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	
Scarlet Fever ...	73	—	—	7	6	32	18	4	4	1	—	—	38
Diphtheria ...	25	—	3	1	1	11	6	—	2	1	—	—	19
Pneumonia—acute primary	89 (1)	8	4	9	2	2	3	9	10	11	17	2	7
—influenzal ...	10 (2)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3 (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	9 (4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	—	—	2
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1 (5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	23 (6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	10	4	2

(1) Only 35 of these belonged to the district

(2) " " " "

(3) " " " "

(4) Only 2 of these belonged to the district

(5) This case did not belong to the district

(6) 15 of these belonged to the district

TABLE VII.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10... ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15... ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—20... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25—35... ..	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
35—45... ..	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
45—55... ..	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
55—65... ..	3	2	—	—	3	—	—	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ... ..	11	8	3	3	9	4	3	2

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths—2 to 18.

Notification of tuberculosis in the district is efficient. No action necessary.

**STATEMENT SHOWING TREATMENT RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR  
BY PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.  
WHO RESIDE IN THE AREA.**

Number of cases :	Adults.	Children	Total
Admitted to Sanatoria ... ..	1	1	2
Admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals ...	13	1	14
Admitted to General or Special Hospitals	1	1	2
Granted "light" treatment ... ..	3	2	5
Granted X-ray examination ... ..	67	12	79
Granted Dispensary supervision or Dispensary treatment, with provision of special nourishment ... ..	14	2	16
Granted Dispensary supervision or treatment ... ..	76	7	83
Under Supervision on 31st Dec., 1937...	72	9	81

The 81 cases under supervision at the end of the year have been classified as follows :—

Pulmonary ... ..	51	2	53
Non-pulmonary ... ..	18	7	25
Combined ... ..	3	—	3
Cases taken off the Register as "cured"	9	1	10

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**

These Regulations empower the Local Authority to prevent anyone who is suffering from respiratory tuberculosis from taking part in the milking of cows, the treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels used for containing milk.

No action under these Regulations was necessary during the year.

**Public Health Act 1925. Section 62.**

This section empowers a Local Authority to remove compulsorily to hospital infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation is such that proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection cannot be taken, or that such precautions are not being taken.

No action was necessary.

**National Rat Week.**

This was held from November 1st to 6th. By means of advertisements in the local press, and posters, the attention of the public was drawn to the damage and disease caused by rats, and advice given as to their destruction.



## Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

### 1. Health Visiting.

The Council employs 2 fully-trained Health Visitors who devote the whole of their time to the Maternity & Child Welfare Service. One of their principal duties is to visit newly-born children for the purpose of advising mothers in regard to the feeding and care of their infants. Home visitation is of vital importance, since only a small proportion of mothers bring their children to the clinic. Scientific knowledge must therefore be carried to the homes. Mothers are urged to acquire the "clinic habit" so that babies may be regularly weighed and kept under observation, for it is chiefly in this way that early defects are discovered. In spite of every encouragement, however, there are large numbers of mothers who, from one cause or another, will not come to the centre; and hence the importance of systematic visits to the homes. Repeated visits are paid during the first year of the baby's life, and thereafter as often as may be deemed necessary until the child arrives at school age. Reference to page 42 will show the number and nature of the visits paid during 1937.

### 2. The Welfare Clinic.

The clinic is open on three afternoons each week, when both Health Visitors are in attendance. The Medical Officer attends on one of the afternoons for consultation.

A feature of the work at the clinic is the regular weighing of the babies. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that loss of weight is often the first, and, indeed, is frequently the only indication that a child is not making progress. Lectures and talks on health topics are given and in this and other ways it is sought to inculcate the principles of a healthy way of life.

The various brands of dried milk, virol, etc., are sold to mothers at cost price; and under the Council's scheme milk—liquid and dried—is supplied free (in necessitous cases) to expectant and nursing mothers; also to young children up to two years of age, and as from 1st April, 1938, to all children between two and five (on the Medical Officer's Certificate) who are not in attendance at an Elementary School.

The social side of the work is also encouraged. Mothers are supplied with tea and cakes at a small cost, and they have the opportunity of friendly intercourse with one another.

Our best thanks are again due to the voluntary helpers who have devoted so much of their time and energy to welfare work.

### 3. Ante-natal Clinic.

The clinic was held at Greenbank Nursery School during the year. It will be transferred to the new clinic in Albert Road early in the new year.

During the year 26 sessions were held, the Gynæcologist being in attendance.

123 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 370 attendances. Of the 123 cases, 29 attended on one occasion only, 25 came twice, 30 three times, 18 four times, 8 five times, 8 six times, 2 seven times, 1 eight times, and 2 nine times. 51 were expectant for the first time (primiparae). The ages of the primiparae are shown in the following table:—

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
1	20	17	8	5	—

The most serious of the morbid conditions found on examination are given below.

	Primiparae.	Multiparae.
	No. of cases	No. of cases
Dental disease ... ..	23	37
Contracted pelvis ... ..	4	21
Albuminuria ... ..	2	12
High Blood Pressure ... ..	6	4
Haemorrhage ... ..	3	4
Varicose Veins ... ..	—	1
Cardiac Disease ... ..	2	3
Leucorrhoea ... ..	5	5
Breech presentation ... ..	4	8
Hydramnios ... ..	1	1
Fibroids ... ..	1	—

Appropriate treatment was arranged for in all cases.

## CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF PATIENTS.

By the end of the year 98 of the patients had been confined. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements:—

	Primiparae.	Multiparae.
No. confined ... ..	38	60
Confinement at home ... ..	14	30
Confinement at Nursing Home ...	3	—
Confinement at Townleys Hospital	20	25
Confinement at St. Mary's Hospital	1	5
Vertex presentation ... ..	38	57
Breech presentation ... ..	—	1
Labour normal ... ..	34	57
Labour normal but prolonged ...	4	1
Caesarian Section ... ..	—	2
Forceps delivery ... ..	3	—
Ruptured perineum ... ..	1	—
Condition of mother satisfactory ...	38	60
Condition of child :		
Alive and well ... ..	35	58
Still-born ... ..	3	2

## 4. Convalescent Homes.

## (a) FOR MOTHERS AFTER CONFINEMENT.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of suitable cases to the Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby.

Unfortunately there are no homes within reasonable reach which take in mother and child. The importance of breast feeding renders it essential that a mother should not be separated from her child. In the circumstances, patients are restricted to those cases where the baby has died, or where, for some valid reason, breast feeding has been discontinued. No case was sent during the year.

## (b) FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have reserved a cot at the North of England Children's Sanatorium, Southport, at an annual cost of £39. During the year two children were sent.



## 5. Home Helps.

The Council undertakes to provide Home Helps for mothers at the time of their confinement. A register of women who are suitable and available for such services is kept at the office. The Help takes over the ordinary household duties, and in this way relieves the mother of responsibility during her period of disablement. A definite scale of charges has been drawn up, but in necessitous cases the services are given free of charge. Seven Home Helps were supplied during the year, and all agreed to pay according to scale.

## 6. Maternity Cases.

Arrangements exist with Townleys Hospital, whereby any woman can be admitted for her confinement. Payment is made according to her means. 30 cases were admitted to Townleys during the year.

## 7. Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

The following arrangements, which were approved by the Ministry of Health, have been made by the Farnworth Council :—

- (1) second opinion—Dr. Scott, of Bolton, has been appointed at a fee of £2 2s. per consultation.
- (b) bacteriological examinations can be carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.
- (c) hospital treatment—cases are admitted to Townleys Hospital, provided there is accommodation available, at the rate of 3 guineas per week per patient.
- (d) skilled nursing—this is carried out by the District Nursing Association at a cost to the Council of 1/6 per visit.

## 8. Maternal Mortality.

There have been no maternal deaths in the district for two years.

The risks attending pregnancy are considerable, and I would strongly urge medical men and midwives to insist on all their pregnant patients having at least one expert examination during the expectant period.

## 9. Infant Life Protection.

Under the Local Government Act of 1929, the duties in connection with infant life protection, which were formerly discharged by the Guardians, have been transferred to those local authorities who are responsible for maternity and child welfare. The "Children and Young Persons Act," 1933, has introduced a few more administrative changes. Briefly, the local authority is now responsible for the supervision up to the age of nine years of all children who are maintained "for reward."

The Health Visitors were appointed by the Council to be the Infant Life Protection Visitors, and they pay regular visits to the children.

At the end of the year there were only three children on the Register.

## 10. Dental Treatment.

### (a) For expectant and nursing mothers.

During 1937, 12 expectant or nursing mothers attended for dental treatment for the first time, of whom 7 required dentures in addition to extractions and/or fillings. The cost of this service was £37 5s. 0d., of which the patients agreed to pay £14 14s. 6d.

### (b) For pre-school children.

11 cases attended during the year, all for extractions.

The following is the Report of the Dental Surgeon :—

*To the Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on dental treatment completed during the year, January to December, 1937.

Also I have pleasure in enclosing a **Summary** of the Dental treatment carried out during that year.

As regards the Mothers themselves I don't think there is quite the same reluctance about receiving dental treatment as there was a few years ago. There is some hesitation naturally: (a) due to the ordinary dental fear, (b) due to the fact that they are expectant mothers, but the reluctance is much less. The chief concern is the cost and when it is explained that there is some help according to circumstances then they agree much more readily than before. Further the mothers tell me they feel more confident and are more reassured because they have been encouraged by the Medical Officer of Health and Nurses.

I am told very often by mothers who were treated some years ago how pleased they are that they made the effort to receive treatment. Their improved health, ability to eat better and appearance seem to justify this effort.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

G. C. ROYLEY.

## SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1937.

No. of Mothers treated	Extractions	Fillings	Dentures	Gas	Scalings	Repairs
18	93	22	9	4	2	5

With the exception of the four gas cases all the extractions were completed under local anaesthesia.

### 11. Tonsils and Adenoids.

Thirteen pre-school children were referred for operative treatment.

### 12. Minor Ailments.

28 children attended the school clinic during the year, making in all 246 attendances.

### 13. Orthopaedics.

16 pre-school children attended the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year, and made 57 attendances. None of the children had to be sent to Biddulph Hospital. 23 Surgical appliances, *i.e.*, boots, irons, etc., were supplied through the Clinic.

### 14. Defective Vision.

7 pre-school children were examined by the School Oculist. In 4 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, whilst in 3 cases other treatment was advised.

### 15. Medical Officer's Consultations at the Clinic.

The following is a summary of the defects for which the Medical Officer was consulted during 1937 :—

Number of consultations	...	...	...	637
Malnutrition and general debility, including defects of digestive system...	...	...	...	103
Eye (including Squint)...	...	...	...	15
Skin	...	...	...	30
Reproductive Organs	...	...	...	23
Rupture	...	...	...	7
Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	32
Rickets	...	...	...	10
Dental	...	...	...	12
Deformities	...	...	...	5
Ear	...	...	...	8
Pulmonary	...	...	...	33
Mental	...	...	...	3
Other	...	...	...	37

40 expectant mothers also attended and made 61 attendances.

Summary of work done by Maternity and Child Welfare Department in 1937 :—

**Visits :—**

First Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	359
Re-visits—under 1 year	....	....	....	....	....	....	1657
1—5 years	....	....	....	....	....	....	3243
Expectant Mothers :—							
First Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	127
Re-visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	270
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	104
Infant Life Protection	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Special Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	191
Total							5972
<hr/>							
Homes—Number Visited	....	....	....	....	....	....	1189

**Clinic :—**

No. of Infants under 12 months	....	....	....	....	....	....	341
Children between 1 and 5 years	....	....	....	....	....	....	481
Total attendances of above two groups	....	....	....	....	....	....	6572
Average attendance per session	....	....	....	....	....	....	46
Expectant Mothers—Number	....	....	....	....	....	....	154
„        „        Attendances	....	....	....	....	....	....	647

**Free Supply of Milk, etc. :—**

Dried Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	5044-lbs.
Cows' Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	155 gallons
Cod Liver Oil	....	....	....	....	....	....	150-lbs.

**A. G. GLASS**









